FWOOO

DON'T TRY TO GET FANCY.

YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO IT IF YOU STICK TO THE BASICS.

EVEN I MANAGED IT, AND I HAVE NO COORDINA-TION AT ALL.

YOU CAN DO IT IF YOU JUST RELAX.

JUST KEEP YOUR BALANCE, WHILE SLOWLY SHIFTING YOUR WEIGHT TO THE BELTS ON YOUR WAIST AND LEGS.

STIFFEN THE MUSCLES OF YOUR UPPER BODY, AND LET YOUR LOWER BODY HANG LOOSE.

GREAK

GREAK

GREAK

GREAK

GREAK

GREAK

HERE YOU GO!

LIFT ME UP, ARMIN!

...I HAVE A FEELING I'LL GET IT THIS TIME.

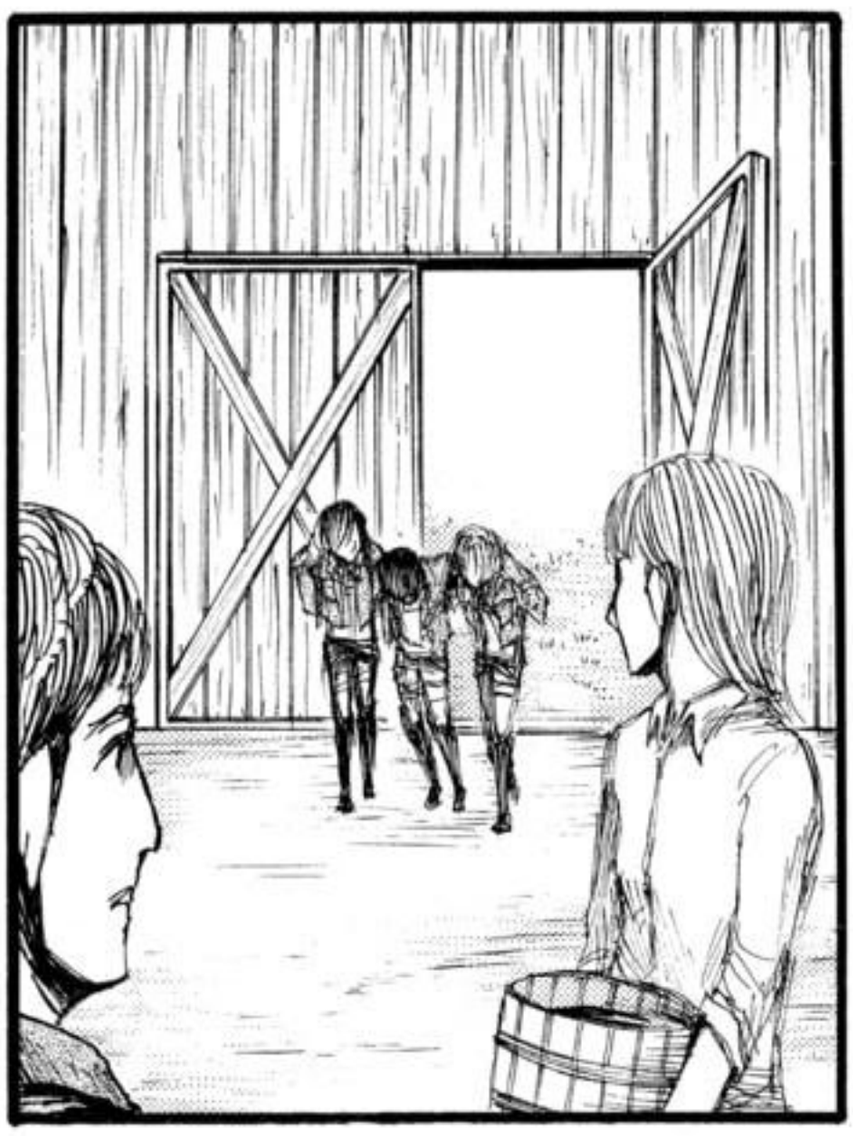
HUH ?!

SHAKE

SHAKE

AH!

KRAK



Episode 16: Necessity

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BUZZ BUZZ

AND HE'S ALREADY ALMOST KILLED HIMSELF ON STEP ONE, POSTURE CONTROL TRAINING!

TELL ME ABOUT IT... HOW'S IT POSSIBLE FOR ANYONE NOT TO GRASP THAT?

BUZZ

BUZZ BUZZ

HEY... LAST NIGHT, DIDN'T THAT GUY...

...SAY THAT HE WAS GONNA WIPE OUT THE TITANS?

OW!

EREN !

SQUEEZE

GOOD! THERE'S NO REASON TO WASTE FOOD ON HIM!

EREN ...

ZA SHAKE

EREN ...

ZA SHAKE

HOW THE HELL DOES HE PLAN ON SLAUGHTERING THE TITANS ANYWAY?

YOU GOT ME...BUT AT THIS RATE, HE'LL BE KICKED OUT OF HERE BEFORE HE EVEN GETS A SHOT AT IT.

...

WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS GETTING ENOUGH TO EAT SO YOUR BODY WILL MAKE MORE BLOOD TO REPLACE WHAT YOU LOST TODAY.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GET IT DOWN TOMORROW.

THERE'S NO SENSE LETTING THEM GET TO YOU.

HOW AM I EVER GOING TO...

IT'S PA-THET-IC...

I'M TELLING YOU, THERE'S NO SENSE IN GETTING WORKED UP OVER IT NOW...

WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

...TO-MOR-ROW...

IF I CAN'T DO IT TOMOR-ROW...

...HUH ?!

YOU SHOULDN'T SET YOUR SIGHTS ON THAT ANYWAY.

...ERADICATE THEM LIKE THIS?

HM?

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AND ALL YOUR DREAMS AND EFFORTS WILL BE FOR NOTHING.

BECAUSE AT THIS RATE, YOU'RE JUST GOING TO DIE IN VAIN.

IF YOU'RE NOT CUT OUT FOR IT, WHAT CAN YOU DO?

YOU CAN ALWAYS SUPPORT THE HUMAN RACE BY BEING A PRODUCER.

I'M SAYING YOU SHOULDN'T AIM TO BE A SOLDIER.

WHAT'D YOU SAY ...?

...

WHA ...?

H-HOW CAN YOU...?

LAYING DOWN YOUR LIFE ISN'T THE ONLY WAY TO FIGHT.

DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT ARGUMENT'S GOING TO CHANGE MY MIND?

YOU KNOW WHAT I SAW THAT DAY...

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HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

...YOUR RESOLVE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.

BUT ...

...

JERK!

I KNOW THAT ALREADY...!

ULP...

IT'S NOT **YOUR** DECISION WHETHER YOU GET TO BE A SOLDIER, EREN...

WHAT I'M SAYING MUST SEEM RIDICULOUS TO YOU...

SHE'S RIGHT... I'M NOT IN THE POSITION TO SAY ANYTHING...

THE TRUTH IS THAT IF I CAN'T DO IT, I'M OUT OF HERE...

CLATTER CLATTER CLATTER

RATTLE

RATTLE

...!

AFTER ALL, YOU MASTER EVERYTHING ON THE FIRST TRY!

SO...

CLANG

S-SURE.

ARMIN, LET'S GO.

CLANG CLANG

I'M NOT TELLING YOU TO GO BACK TO THE SETTLE-MENT ALONE, EREN...

I'D GO WITH YOU, SO...

SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

MM?
UM...
THAT MEANS ...
IT'S OKAY IF I EAT THAT, RIGHT?
CLATTER
CLATTER

DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WERE GONNA DRAW WATER FOR ME AND KRISTA?

W-WHAT?!

RATTLE

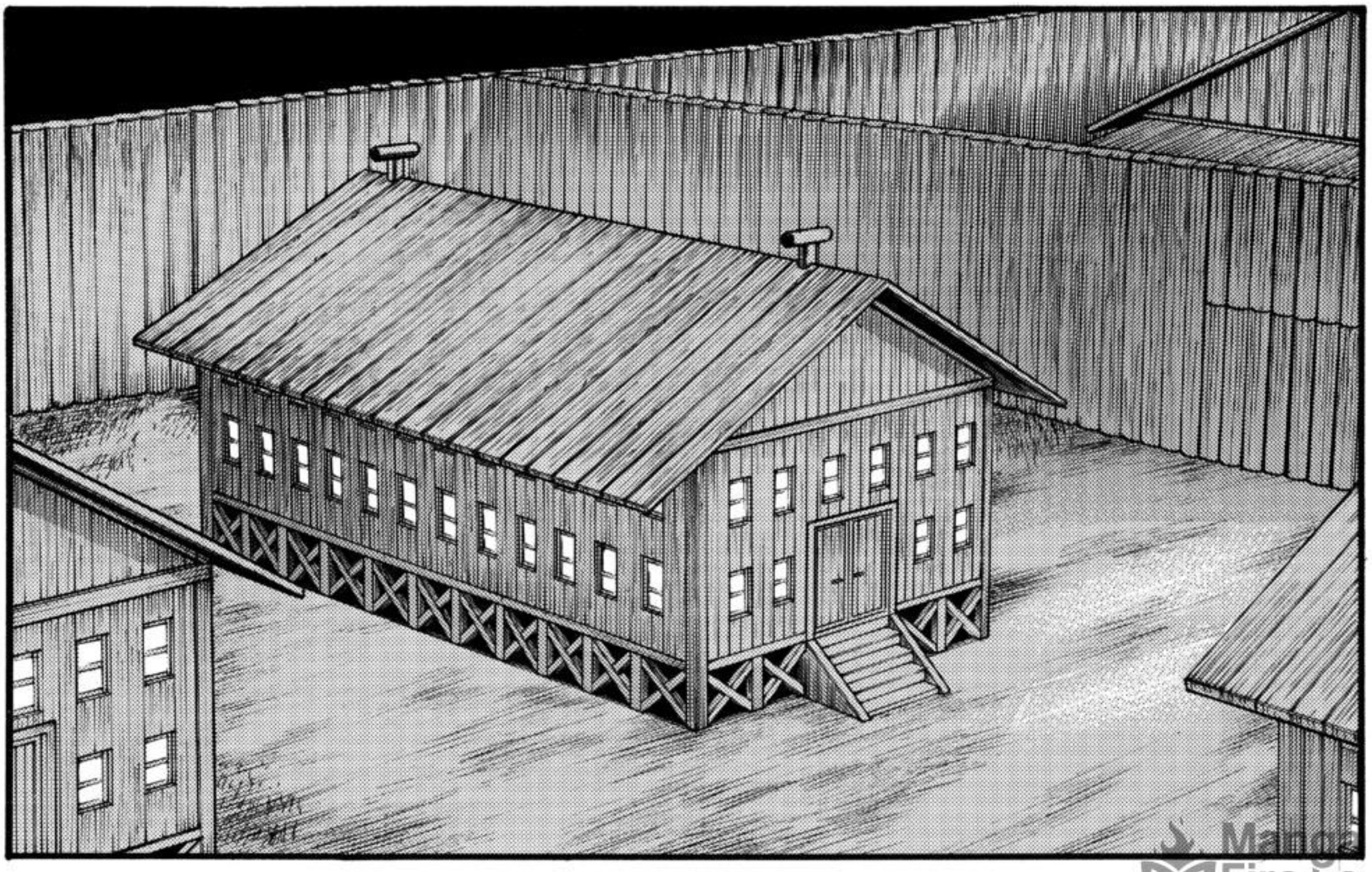
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SASHA?!

...

Y-YOU CAN'T USE HER LIKE THAT...

I DIDN'T MAKE A MISTAKE SAVING YOUR LIFE, DID I?

R-RIGHT! I'LL GET RIGHT ON IT, MY BENE-FACTOR AND GOD... HEH-HEH-HEH...



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ALL I CAN SAY IS, "FEEL IT."

SORRY, BUDDY, BUT I'M JUST A NATURAL.

A TRICK TO IT?

TELL ME THE SECRET TO KEEPING YOUR SANITY AFTER DISGRACING YOURSELF IN PUBLIC LIKE THAT!

HEY, WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME?

FORGET CONNIE AND JEAN. THOSE TWO GUYS OVER THERE ALSO GOT HIGH MARKS.

I THINK THEIR NAMES ARE...

OKAY, OKAY ...

G-GUYS, I'M SERIOUSLY ASKING FOR YOUR HELP HERE...

CHATTER

HMMM... THE TRICK TO POSTURE CONTROL ...?

CHATTER CHATTER

PLEASE!

I HEARD YOU GUYS WERE GREAT AT IT...

REINER ...

BERTOL...!

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YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO BET ON TOMOR-ROW...

I SEE ...

...

I DON'T THINK I HAVE THE WORDS OF WISDOM YOU'RE LOOKING FOR...

...

SORRY... BUT I DON'T THINK YOU NEED A TRICK TO JUST DANGLE THERE.

YEAH... THAT'S RIGHT...

YOU TWO ARE FROM SHIGANSHINA DISTRICT, AREN'T YOU?

SO I DON'T GET WHY YOU WANNA BE SOLDIERS.

THEN YOU PROBABLY KNOW HOW SCARY THE TITANS ARE.

OR EVEN THAT I WAS LEFT AT A SETTLE-MENT...

IT'S NOT THAT I EXPERIENCED THE TITAN MENACE DIRECTLY.

UM...

I HAVE NO CONFIDENCE IN MY OWN PHYSICAL STRENGTH... I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO...

BUT WHENEVER I THINK ABOUT THE MONARCHY RAMMING THROUGH THAT SUICIDAL WALL RECAPTURE OPERATION, I CAN'T SIT STILL...

...WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING.

BUT I CAN'T JUST KEEP QUIET AND WATCH...

WHERE YOU GUYS ARE FROM?

CAN I ASK...

I'M PRETTY MUCH THE SAME WAY...

I-I SEE ...

...ARE FROM A VILLAGE DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS SOUTHEAST OF WALL MARIA.

REINER AND I...

...

IN FACT, WE FIRST LEARNED ABOUT IT WHEN THE TITANS CAME.

YEAH... UNLIKE THE THRIVING TOWNS ALONG THE RIVER, WE DIDN'T GET WORD RIGHT AWAY THAT THE WALL WAS BROKEN.

WHAT?! THAT'S ...

...!!

I'D NEVER HEARD THE GROUND RUMBLE LIKE THAT BEFORE, AND IT KEPT GETTING LOUDER...

REALIZING IT WAS FOOTSTEPS, I HURRIED TO THE WINDOW AND OPENED IT--

IT WAS DAWN... THE LIVESTOCK WERE MAKING A HUGE RACKET.

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TWO YEARS OF SETTLEMENT WORK, THEN YOU CAME HERE... RIGHT?

NEXT, WE PROBABLY WENT THROUGH THE SAME THING.

BUT WE GOT ON HORSES AND ESCAPED TO WALL SHEENA.

AFTER THAT... UM, I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER. EVERYBODY WAS PANICKING.

...YOU GUYS ARE DIFFERENT FROM THEM.

THEM ?

UM... MY POINT WAS...

S- SORRY ...

JEEZ... WHAT DID YOU HAVE TO TALK ABOUT THAT FOR?

THE MAJORITY OF THEM ARE HERE BECAUSE IT'S THE THING TO DO...

THE ONES HERE WHO DON'T KNOW THE TERROR OF THE TITANS.

STILL, FORGET ABOUT THE SURVEY CORPS. EVERYBODY WANTS TO BE IN THE MILITARY POLICE BRIGADE, BUT IF THEY CAN'T, THEY'LL OPT FOR THE GARRISON AND TRY TO GET TRANSFERRED INTO THE BRIGADE...

...YOU'LL BE SWEPT UP IN THE MILITARY CRAZE AFTER THE FALL OF WALL MARIA, AND BECOME A TRAINEE SOLDIER.

BECAUSE IF YOU'RE A PRODUCER GOING ON 12, EVEN IF YOU'RE A WEAK-KNEED COWARD...

HUH?

I'M JUST AS COWARDLY AS THEY ARE.

AND IF THAT DOESN'T WORK OUT, I MIGHT JUST CHUCK IT ALL...

I'M ATHLETIC, SO I CHOSE TO BE A SOLDIER, THINKING I'D USE MY SKILL TO BECOME AN ELITE MP.

...NO WILL OF MY OWN.

I'VE GOT...

AND PROTECTING YOUR OWN LIFE IS ADMIRABLE, TOO.

WELL, YOU DID GO THROUGH A LOT...

I ENVY YOU... FOR HAVING SOMETHING THAT'S MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU THAN YOUR OWN LIFE...

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I'VE BEEN SAYING I WANNA JOIN THE SURVEY CORPS SINCE BEFORE THE WALL CAME DOWN...

PEOPLE JUST THOUGHT I HAD A SCREW LOOSE.

SO I'M THE CRAZY ONE...

MM ...?

THEN ...

...EVEN AFTER ENCOUN-TERING THE TITANS ...

...YOU DIDN'T CHANGE YOUR MIND?

WELL... RIGHT NOW, I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN ACTUALLY BECOME A SOLDIER...

...IS MY NEED TO KILL THEM.

EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM...

AND I'M PLENTY TERRIFIED OF THEM. BUT WHAT'S STRONGER THAN THAT...

...

I HAVE SOME-THING, TOO...

SOMETHING I ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO DO...

I HAVE TO GO BACK HOME, EVEN THOUGH THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO GO HOME TO.

THAT PURPOSE IS ALL THAT'S LEFT INSIDE ME...

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ALL RIGHT ...

I WILL GO BACK... NO MATTER WHAT.

YOU'LL DO FINE TOMORROW...

...

START BY READJUSTING THE BELTS AND TRY AGAIN.

YEAH. THANKS...

...REINER BRAUN, RIGHT?

I KNOW YOU'VE GOT IT IN YOU...

...EREN YEAGER, IS IT?

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FWOOOOO

IF YOU CAN'T DO THAT, YOU'RE GOING BACK TO THE SETTLEMENT... UNDER-STAND?

YES, SIR!

CONTROL OF THE VERTICAL MANEUVERING GEAR IS THE BARE MINIMUM REQUIRED TO BE A SOLDIER.

EREN YEAGER ...

ARE YOU READY?

I MAY NOT BE A NATURAL...

I KNOW I CAN DO THIS!!

I CAN DO THIS!

CREAK

BEGIN.

...BUT NO ONE BEATS ME WHEN IT COMES TO WILLPOWER!

BUT THAT'S ALL I HAVE!

CREAK

CREAK

IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH LOGIC!

AND I CAN'T BACK IT UP!

CREAK

THAT'S MY WEAPON!

CLICK

CLICK

CLICK

CLICK

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OOH!!

CREAK

CREAK

I'M DOING IT...

I DID IT!!

CREAK

CREAK

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ACK !!

SPIN

CLANG

WHOK

!

W...

WAIT ...!

FLAIL

FLAIL

GET HIM DOWN.

BRING HIM DOWN, NOW!

I CAN ...

FLAIL FLAIL FLAIL

N-NOT YET !!

FWOOOOO

I...

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TRADE BELTS WITH YEAGER.

YES, SIR!

WAGNER ...

CREAK

CREAK

CREAK

CREAK

SUDDENLY... I CAN DO IT...

WHY ?!

CREAK

CREAK

W...

NORMALLY, YOU'RE SUSPENDED FROM THE WAIST, SO EVEN IF YOU FLIP OVER, YOU SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO HIT YOUR HEAD ON THE GROUND.

THE METAL FITTING IN THE BELT YOU WERE USING WAS BROKEN.

DE-FECTIVE EQUIP-MENT.

CREAK

I DON'T UNDER-STAND...

WHA ...?!

...BUT YOU'LL NEED TO HAVE A LITTLE MAINTENANCE DONE ON YOUR EQUIPMENT.

CREAK

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ONE OF THESE BREAKING BEFORE...

HUH?

ギ

CREAK

NO PROBLEM. ...KEEP PRACTICING.

...

...MY APTI-TUDE SCORE ...

TH-THEN ...

I DID IT!

FWISH

HOW ABOUT THAT, MIKASA?!

I DID IT!

...!

YOU'LL NEVER HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF ME AGAIN!!

I CAN DO IT!

I CAN FIGHT THE TITANS!!

HE'S RELIEVED, BECAUSE NOW HE WON'T HAVE TO BE SEPARATED FROM ME...

WRONG.

HIS EYES ARE SAYING, "WHAT'D YOU THINK OF THIS?!"

IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S GETTING IT...

HE DOESN'T SEEM TO EXCEL, ESPECIALLY...

AND YET...

GREAK

ギ

...FOR A FEW MOMENTS THERE, HE MAINTAINED HIS BALANCE WITH THIS BROKEN EQUIPMENT.

COULD ANYONE ELSE HAVE DONE THAT...?

GREAK

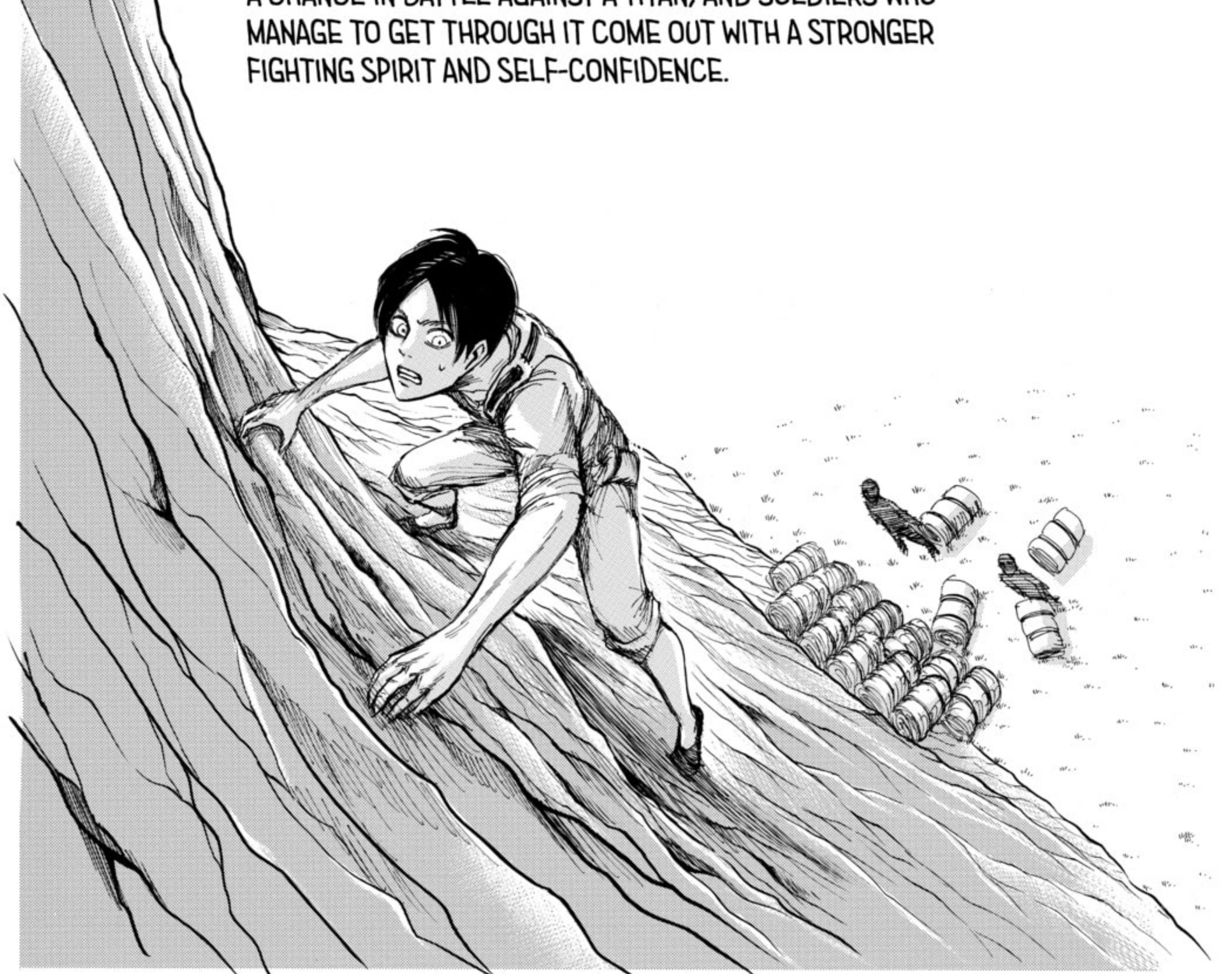
GRISHA... TODAY, YOUR SON...

...BECAME A SOLDIER.

Current Publicly Available Information

8. Vertical Maneuvering Equipment Training

HUMANS MOVE IN TWO DIMENSIONS, SO VERTICAL MANEUVERING EQUIPMENT TRAINING, IN WHICH THEY MUST ADAPT TO THREE DIMENSIONS, IS EXTREMELY DEMANDING. PHYSICAL STRENGTH IS MOST IMPORTANT, ESPECIALLY LEG STRENGTH, THOUGH THE ABILITY TO ADAPT TO G FORCES (WHICH WOMEN PARTICULARLY EXCEL AT) AND A GRASP OF THREE-DIMENSIONAL SPACE ARE ALSO VITAL. WHEN IN MIDAIR, ONE MUST QUICKLY ASSESS THE SITUATION AND SURROUNDINGS, WHILE UNCOMMON WILLPOWER IS REQUIRED TO KEEP FROM PANICKING. THE VARIOUS TRAINING ACTIVITIES INCLUDE BUNGEE JUMPING AND GYMNASTICS WITH EQUIPMENT. AT ONE POINT, THE INSTRUCTOR WILL DELIBERATELY CUT THE LIFELINE (AN "AMBUSH" IN TRAINEE VERNACULAR). AT ANY RATE, IT WOULD BE HARD TO CALL THIS TRAINING "SAFE," BUT ANYONE WHO WOULD DIE DURING THIS PERIOD WOULD NOT STAND A CHANCE IN BATTLE AGAINST A TITAN, AND SOLDIERS WHO MANAGE TO GET THROUGH IT COME OUT WITH A STRONGER FIGHTING SPIRIT AND SELF-CONFIDENCE.



(WITH THANKS TO UKYŌ KODACHI AND KIYOMUNE MIWA)